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S.B. 157, NURSE PRACTICE ACT AMENDMENTS, was read the second time. Senator Julander explained the bill and it passed on the following roll call:

Yeas, 25; Nays, 0; Absent, 4

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

E. Allen	R. Allen	Davis	Dmitrich
B. Evans	M. Evans	Hale	Hellewell
Hillyard	Howell	Hull	Jones
Julander	Knudson	Mansell	Mayne
Montgomery	Muhlestein	Nielson	Peterson
Spencer	Stephenson	Suazo	Waddoups
Beattie			

Absent or not voting were: Senators

Blackham	Poulton	Steele	Valentine
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SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

On motion of Senator Suazo, under suspension of the rules, **S.B. 121**, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, was read the second and third times. Senator Suazo explained the bill. Senators Stephenson, Hillyard, and Julander commented. The bill passed on the following roll call:

Yeas, 28; Nays, 1; Absent, 0.

Voting in the affirmative were: Senators

E. Allen	R. Allen	Blackham	Davis
Dmitrich	B. Evans	M. Evans	Hale
Hellewell	Hillyard	Howell	Hull
Jones	Julander	Knudson	Mansell
Mayne	Montgomery	Muhlestein	Nielson
Peterson	Poulton	Spencer	Steele
Stephenson	Suazo	Valentine	Beattie

Voting in the negative was: Senator

Waddoups

S.B. 121 was transmitted to the House.

On motion of Senator Hillyard, the Senate voted to have the remarks of Senator Suazo printed upon the pages of the Senate Journal.

REMARKS BY SENATOR SUAZO

The Constitution of the United States was the result of passionate persistence and a strong vision for a greater country and a more just way of life. It is a respected and esteemed document which we all hold close to our hearts. We venerate it because it reaffirms our individuality and our value as free people. We respect and celebrate the people who had the persistence and vision to write it. However, that great work was not complete in 1787. It took subsequent generations with similar persistence and vision to create a more just and inclusive America. It has been amended over 20 times. It is important for us to reflect upon and celebrate these achievements as well. They are proof that America is alive and is always changing, a country which is working toward a more complete living reality of our forefathers' vision.

Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr. was the embodiment of the best America is and has to offer. He worked tirelessly for the realization of the promises and principles of the Constitution - justice, the principle of freedom, and equality of all. He brought to light that all people in the United States were guaranteed but not afforded the rights that were promised in that precious document. He made every American examine his or her conscience and decide if America was all that it should be. He revolutionized the way America viewed itself and expanded the vision of this great land....."We the people" became a complete statement.

Dr. King was able to unify people of all different backgrounds in the Civil Rights Movement. People from all walks of life, all creeds, colors, and races joined hands with Dr. King to demand the betterment of society. The Civil Rights Movement was never just about African-Americans, which has been alleged, but rather about affirming the equality of all people. Women, Hispanics, Native Americans, and countless other groups were part of the movement and beneficiaries of his efforts. The Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was one of the major achievements of the Civil Rights Movement, it outlawed discrimination "on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin." This law would never have been so inclusive if it were not for the inclusivity of Dr. King's message. In his short life he united vastly different people in the universal struggle for dignity, respect, and justice. He helped break down the barriers of segregation -- segregated housing, segregated schools, segregated buses, and segregated workplaces. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10, 1964, for his incredible and successful work.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a federal holiday. In his proclamation, President Reagan said the following:

“The majesty of his message, the dignity of his bearing, and the righteousness of his cause are a lasting legacy. In a few short years he changed America for all time. He made it possible for our nation to move closer to the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence: that all people are created equal and are endowed with inalienable rights that government has the duty and respect to protect.”

In 1986, Utah State Senator Terry Williams introduced S.B. 17 to have January 15 recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Some were opposed, and some were for this designation. A compromise was reached - Human Right's Day.

Dr. King's vision was one of a land where our children “would not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” His dream was one of peaceful existence, and he was the champion of compassion. He fought intolerance and violence with loving patience and peaceful resistance. He enunciated our forefathers' vision for all of America, and created a revolution similar to that of our forefathers. He fought seemingly impossible odds to make life fundamentally better for every American. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness became possible for more of America than ever before because of his respectful and peaceful revolution, known as the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. King was only 38 years old when he was brutally gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. This violent act was shocking to the nation's soul, just as was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

I was recently sent a letter, dated April 19, 1968, fifteen days after Dr. King was assassinated. On that date, a prominent Utah father sent his missionary son a message about the impact of Dr. King's death. That son felt compelled to share those thoughts with us today. And I quote...

”Dr. Martin Luther King preached the doctrine enunciated by the Savior in his Sermon on the Mount, and he was resented as a heretic. He preached the doctrine of Patrick Henry of liberty from oppression, and he was denounced. He preached the doctrine of Abraham Lincoln of equality and recited the Fourteenth Amendment and was disclaimed as a rebel rouser. He studied the life of Mahatma Ghandi of passive resistance and non-violence and was assassinated for his trouble. I say he used some rather well chosen authorities for his pronouncements.

Our country will remain socially ill until its people are willing to accept four square and without reservation the proposition that all God's creatures are equal in his sight.

But I say that no nation has ever existed which had or has a better chance for a truly moral government than ours. There are still many patriots in this country who devote their lives to the American dream. Some of these men are former Presidents. Some of them are in Congress. Some are just ordinary people with an extraordinary amount of compassion for their fellow man.....Dr. Martin Luther King preached the truth. And he bothered the conscience of America. I say thank God we have a conscience that is capable of being bothered!"

Dr. King was the embodiment of American ideals. He was bright, persistent, passionate, and deeply devoted to God and country. He spoke his heart and worked to create a better life for future generations. He is a man worth remembering and celebrating.

I would like to thank all those that support this effort. I ask for resounding "aye" for this body, from the House, and from the Governor. It is time Utah join hands with the majority of other states in the nation to celebrate the life and contributions of this great American hero.

Let us complete the journey; the vision that Senator Terry Williams set upon in 1986. Let us proclaim this day, the 3rd Monday of January as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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On motion of Senator Hillyard, and at 3:05 p.m., the Senate sauntered.

The Senate was called to order at 3:10 p.m., with President Beattie presiding.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORTS

To the Members of the Senate: February 8, 2000

The Rules Committee recommends assignment of the following bills to standing committees:

Business, Labor & Economic Development

Sub. H.B. 90 RemovingBarrierstoElectronic Government Services
Delivery (B. Chard)

H.B. 153 Utah Department of Transportation Maintenance Sheds
(G. Adair)

Judiciary

S.B. 119 Assault and Cohabitant Abuse Act Amendments
(M. Peterson)